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Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-captioned application is respectfully requested. All pending claims (1-27 as properly numbered) have been rejected on the basis of Harvey, III et al. (hereinafter "Harvey"), and objections have been lodged to improper claim numbering. The amendments herein correct the erroneous claim numbering and concomitant erroneous claim dependencies, as well as a few informalities, and the objections, being cured, will not be further addressed. Claims 1-27 remain pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 10, 13-15, 18, 19, 22-24, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Harvey, which teaches a system to cross locale boundaries in a database to provide services which, as correctly observed by the examiner and as set forth in Harvey's abstract, can include sorting services. However, Harvey does not undertake its sorting in the same way as the present claims. More specifically, unlike the present claims, the relied-upon objects of Harvey do not appear to contain culturally correct collation keys, whereas the present claims require culturally correct collation keys for respective data keys that are associated with data records, for use of the culturally correct collation keys in sorting the records.

It is true as the examiner points out that at col. 5, lines 43-47 Harvey teaches creating keys, but nowhere is it taught or suggested that these keys are collation keys, much less culturally correct collation keys as set forth in the present claims. Instead, as taught by Harvey the keys are derived from name and attribute tables so that the principal purpose of Harvey (retrieve services across locale boundaries) can be achieved. Accordingly, it appears that the present claims are patentable.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20, 21, 25, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Harvey. For the reasons set forth above, it appears that these dependent claims are patentable.

Furthermore, with respect to Claim 2 it has been alleged that it is well known to use distributed processing, and that this untaught feature of Harvey nonetheless would be obvious to add to Harvey. Applicant respectfully points out that what is required is not simply an allegation that something is well-known, but a particular suggestion from the prior art to incorporate the allegedly well-known element into the specific combination that is claimed.

The rejection of Claim 8 relies on the allegation that "sorting involves comparison". Should the rejections be persisted in, a prior art showing of support for this proposition is seasonably requested under MPEP §2144.03.

The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at (619) 338-8075 for any reason which would advance the instant application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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